

1 **GRAND ISLE SCHOOL BOARD**
2 **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**
3 **Monday, December 14, 2009**

4 **Board attending:**

5 Herbert Durfee, III, Beverly Gover, Peg Burbo, Alan Arthur and Michael Inners
6

7 **Others in attendance:** Troy Nolan-Watkins, Principal, Richard Taylor,
8 Superintendent, Karen Groseclose, Business Manager; Select board members Ron
9 Bushway and Anna Marie Demars; members of the public see last page of minutes.
10

11 **Proceedings:**

12 HD called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
13

14 **Adjustment of Agenda:** Add to board discussion – short update on tech
15 committee meeting; add to principal's report – energy grant update; add update from
16 Playground Committee (Jodi Butler), add to executive session, personnel matter and
17 student matter (by Superintendent Taylor).
18

19 **Approval of Minutes:** At 7:11 p.m. AA made a motion to approve the minutes
20 of November 23, 2009 as drafted, 2nd by PB – GC.
21

22 **Members of the Public – For Items Not on the Agenda:** None.
23

24 **Public Hearing:** HD gave a general introduction regarding new legislation, Act
25 44, and the fact that Colchester High School approached the GISU district boards and
26 offered the opportunity for their school to be our designated high school. Grand Isle has
27 86 students in high school including CVU, Brewster, Lyndon, Green Mountain Valley,
28 Essex, Colchester, and South Burlington. The 2009 high school tuition is \$973,000 and
29 by 2013-14 it will be \$860,000 if everyone is at Colchester, this example is for fiscal
30 aspects only; many comments have already been received; could save \$100,000
31 approximately or 2 or 3%. Scott Beaudoin from Rice High School's school board was
32 present at the meeting as well as John Everitt and Patrick Burke from South Burlington
33 High School.

34 Jordan Davies asked how many high school students in GISU – RT answered 365
35 plus tech students.

36 Laurie Redel asked what about siblings of students already in the system; the
37 statute is not clear; population of K-8, 6th grade = 26 students, 7th grade = 28 students and
38 8th grade = 27 students. First grade and kindergarten are large classes with next year's
39 potential kindergarten at 24 students.

40 Anna Marie Demers asked if regular consolidation discussion is on hold. HD
41 explained that North Hero is looking at a municipal union and requires further study; this
42 has prompted Grand Isle to let NH and SH know that we may be interested in being part
43 of a three or four town union; she also asked if there would be a contract with Colchester
44 and what if they became full. (Item noted in the minutes for future reference.)

45 Tom Burbo – is there an inclination of single or multi year? HD explained that
46 the board has not discussed the issue with Colchester. TB was questioning the wording
47 of the statute sections C or D, board would have discretion – need to maybe have a policy
48 or the like in place. The vote has to go to the public.

49 Emily Clark – designation takes choice away, if we sent students to designated
50 high school, there would be no forum for local voices.

51 Carolyn Prasch spoke regarding the tech schools; RT indicated that designated
52 schools have agreements with a tech center, if not both Burlington and Essex.

53 Jerry Shepard – SAT scores availability? Emily Clark responded.

54 Jordan Davies – how much would it impact the individual tax payer? HD
55 explained that approx. \$45,000 = .01 on the tax rate; if \$100,000 savings = .025 to .03.

56 Jim Burbo – feels it would make much of a difference in savings.

57 Anna Marie Demers – Special Ed students; No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
58 supersedes most state law, if mainstream, probably designated school, maybe a board
59 member from here could sit with designated board – to be further discussed; at present,
60 give up local control.

61 Mitch McGrath – tech student – if all designated, set number from one school;
62 difference – challenges in what type of negotiations with receiving schools, lower
63 property values when no school choice,

64 RT – no negotiations with high schools; if negotiated tuition, that is the charge to
65 all high school tuition students.

66 Terry Caron – better to have numbers than no students.

67 John Redel – has the board contacted other sending districts?

68 Jordan Davies – are you interested in education or dollars.

69 Scott Beaudoin from Rice High School school board, discussion in legislative
70 council in January regarding allowing students to choose any accredited school, of which
71 Rice is accredited.

72 Mary Fitzgerald – can they absorb an entire population of students; are they
73 petitioning other schools? HD we know they have solicited all island schools.

74 Emily Clark – representation; budget one or two percent higher; cut programs and
75 staff; risk to absorb 80 or 90 kids.

76 Jordan Davies – (to RT) does it have to be supervisory union effort; could be a
77 town by town decision.

78 Polly Gregory – how does this and consolidation conversation stay on course, or
79 does it discontinue.

80 Eileen Worcester – designation and effect on after-school activities.

81 Ron Bushway – are all five board members in favor – PB said no. This meeting
82 was to hear town opinions; the board has not made any conclusions.

83 Mitch McGrath – what else is the board looking at to reduce costs; consolidation,
84 designation, curriculum, staffing, State formula, debt service, NCLB, secondary tuition,
85 elementary budget.

86 HD explained that education spending at \$3.6M with 316 equalized pupils
87 amounts to \$11,248 per equalized pupil. If level fund at \$4.3 expenditure, carry forward
88 of \$275,000 increase (\$250,000 surplus plus \$14,000 deficit) 309 pupils would equal
89 \$12,358 per pupil. If level funded, education spending of \$3.5M means \$343,000 needed
90 to get out of education spending (10%).

91 Laurie Redel presented a petition regarding “wanting to have a choice in deciding
92 where your child attends high school” signed by 29 people at the concert this evening.
93 HD thanked her for that.

94 Playground Committee update – Miracle Playground has a local representative.
95 \$60,000 is needed; wood pulp mulch also; \$7,000 has been raised; \$5,000 promised at
96 end of \$60,000
97

98 **Superintendent’s Report:** None.
99

100 **Principal’s Report:**

101 Enrollment Update - No Change, 203 Students Currently Enrolled
102 Grand Isle Mentoring update – three individuals have begun the process to
103 become a mentor. Once the background checks are returned and the participants have had
104 their initial mentoring training, the process of matching students with the adult mentors
105 will begin. TW is trying to have matches by the end of the week.

106 Website will be updated with revised Student Assessment Profiles in the next
107 week.

108 Energy grant – the grand application has been completed and a request for
109 \$53,772 was made for lighting updates. This would be funded by 90% TARP dollars and
110 10% from Efficiency Vermont.

111 Open positions – There are currently three positions open at Grand Isle School –
112 0.5 FTE Title 1 Teacher; Literacy Tutor and Math Tutor. TW has interviewed several
113 applicants and will update next meeting. At 9:35 p.m. HD made a motion to approve the
114 recommendation of TW for .5 FTE Title 1 teacher, 2nd by BG. Discussion took place
115 regarding the board being able to see the final candidates’ resumes. At 9:40 p.m. MI
116 made a motion to postpone previous motion until December 28 2nd by AA; HD and BG
117 voted No; AA, MI and PB voted Yes.
118

119 **Board Discussion:** There was a good turnout for recent Faculty/Staff meeting.
120 At the recent GISU meeting, the budget was approved.
121

122 **Board Action:** At 11:10 p.m. MI made a motion to pay bills in the amount of
123 \$370,909.01 2nd by AA – GC. At 11:14 p.m. MI made a motion to pay the School
124 District Treasurer’s Invoices dated November 24, 2009 and 2nd by HD – AA voted no,
125 HD, MI and BG voted yes.

126 Preschool agreements: At 11:15 p.m. MI moved to authorize HD to sign UAPK
127 contracts with the Learning Adventure and Champlain Islands Parent/Child Center, 2nd by
128 BG – GC.
129

Executive Session: At 9:52 p.m. MI made a motion to enter Executive Session and 2nd by HD regarding personnel GC. At 11:06 p.m. MI made a motion to exit Executive Session 2nd by BG – GC.

Agenda Building: See Board Discussion – public hearing information.

Board Correspondence/Sharing: Tech Committee update – MI indicated that the Tech Committee met recently and there is a big upgrade from Comcast coming soon, which will be 20 times faster than the present service. He also mentioned internet filtering, all tech dollars are in GISU budget and their next meeting will be February 18.

Next regular meeting is December 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

11:20 p.m. Motion to adjourn by BG – GC

APPROVED BY
GRAND ISLE SCHOOL BOARD

